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more just." This is the laudable task the author sets before himself.

The general plan of the book may be understood from an enumeration of the headings of the several chapters, as follows: Parasitic Fungi and Moulds; Ferments and Artificial Fermentations; Microbes or Bacteria; Microbes of the Diseases of Domestic Animals; Microbes of Human Diseases; Protection against Microbes; Laboratory Research, and Culture of Microbes; Polymorphism of Microbes; The Microbian Theory compared with other Theories set forth to explain the Origin of Contagious Diseases.

In turning over these chapters, so admirably planned to accomplish the author's purpose, one is pained to note the evident want of acquaintance of the author with his subject. A book of this kind should have been intrusted to a specialist, who could have done something to popularize the difficult subject, and not to one who has no specialty, unless it be that of dabbling in everything, "palæontology, bibliography, zoology, general biology, geographical distribution, vertebrates, mammals, ornithology." [1] The result is a book which is so full of errors of interpretation as to greatly lessen its value.

It is difficult to criticise a book like this in detail, and it is perhaps needless, as no ordinary revision could eliminate its faults. Nothing less than a rewriting of most of the chapters would make the book what it should be. A few examples, however, will serve to show the kind of work done by the author. On page 11, we are told that in the mushroom "the part which we eat and call the umbrella represents the flower or floral peduncle of other plants." Fig. 18, which is intended to illustrate *Peronospora infestans*, is not that species at all, but evidently the one on the grape. Fig. 23 is printed upside down. On page 128 occurs a most marvellous jumble; an attempt is there made to discuss the cause of the red color which occasionally appear on ponds, and which is common on the snow in northern regions, and, astonishing as it may seem, Protococcus is regarded as a microbe!

It would be unfair to leave the impression that this book has no value whatever. It may prove to be to some mind the suggestion from which will eventually spring the desire to know more about the "infinitely little" things. Should it do so we should not condemn it too severely, although we might still wish that it had been more carefully prepared.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

Economic Fungology.[2]—Little attention has been given in this country, and little more in England, even, to the study of the fungi from an economic, or more properly a culinary, stand-point. Dr. M. A. Curtis, of North Carolina, was reputed to be an expert in distinguishing the edible from the inedible species, but scarcely anything now remains to us of his work, for he published little upon this branch of botany. In England, Badham's "Esculent Funguses," published many years ago, has served in a way to give to the beginner in Economic Fungology little more than a start. Its good plates have always made it valuable.

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[1] See International Scientists' Directory, 1883.

[2] An Elementary Text-book of British Fungi. Illustrated by William Delisle Hay, F.R.G.S., author of "Brighter Britain," etc., etc. London, Swan, Sonnenschein, Lowry & Co., Paternoster Square, 1887.

A late work, with the too ambitious title of "An Elementary Text-Book of British Fungi," by W. D. Hay, is intended to supply the need of a book for the beginner or amateur who wishes to be able to pick out the edible fungi from the host of inedible ones. While the book is by no means such a one as its title would indicate, it *is* fairly successful as an attempt "to collect information relating to such fungi as have an economic value, either as esculents or poisons." The author is not a botanist, and has the honesty to admit that "It has never been my privilege, as yet, to meet with any person versed in mycology from whom I could derive instruction." His practical acquaintance with the larger fungi may be inferred from this sentence from the preface: "But, so far as 'toad-stool eating' goes, I believe I have a right to speak with authority, since my own gastronomic experiments have been many, frequent, and varied."

Of the classification used in the arrangement the less said the better. It is simply atrocious. But let not the botanist toss aside the book as useless on that account. He will find much valuable information in it which he cannot obtain elsewhere. The descriptions are good, and given as they are in popular terms, the tyro will find the task of recognizing the species much simplified. Little can be said in commendation of the choice of English names for the species, and occasionally the English name is as difficult to remember as the scientific one,—*e.g.*, Fork-gilled Green-cap (*Russala furcata*); Infamous Clitocybe (*Agaricus inversus*); Orange Jelly-sprout (*Tremella mesenterica*); Oyster of the Woods (*Agaricus ostreatus*), etc. On the other hand there are some good selections of English names; among these are the following, viz.: Bolet (species of Boletus), Polypore (species of Polyporus), Lactar (species of Lactarius), Ink-cap (species of Coprinus).

A valuable feature of the book is found in the appendix, which is devoted to the preparation of fungi for the table. Here the ambitious cook may obtain many suggestions as to the preparation of appetizing dishes from many a common fungus, with the French name thrown in. Thus we have recipes for Pratelles à la Bourgeoise, Pratelles à la Provençale, Bolets à la Citoyenne, Oaktongue à l'Américaine, Puffball à la Lyonnaise, Puffball à la Grande Duchesse, etc.

The plates, of which there are sixty-nine, consist of the woodcuts of Cooke's "Handbook" arranged upon the pages. Not more than a dozen or so of these plates have any connection with the text, and they are consequently of no sort of value. Evidently the publisher had these on hand, and put them in to fill up. They add thickness to the book, and doubtless add also to its cost.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

Colton's Elementary Course of Practical Zoology.[1]—This work is truly an elementary one,—not a text-book, but a series of guides to the study of certain typical animals, with the aim of giving the student, by following the directions given, such a practical acquaintance with comparative anatomy as will enable him to obtain a clear idea of the animal kingdom. Classification of the objects chosen is not attempted, for the much alike grasshopper and cricket commence the work, and are followed by examples of the other hexapod orders. Then come studies of the spider, millipede, and various Crustacea, to which succeed the earth-worm, clam, and snail. The Infusoria and Amœba come after these, and then the author proceeds to the fish, the frog, the snake, the turtle, and the mammal, which are succeeded by the echinoderms, cœlenterates, and sponges. This arrangement seems to have been carefully considered in the adaptation of the work to the needs of those who will most use it,—students in academies and high schools,—and here this has a marked advantage over those laboratory manuals which follow a cut-and-dried system. By first examining closely-allied forms they are led to comparative work, while the order of the subjects is such as to accommodate the increasing skill of the pupil in manipulation. The work is really a valuable one for beginners in zoology, and deserves the success with which we understand it is meeting.

Lydekker's Catalogue of Fossil Mammalia.[2]—Mr. Richard Lydekker, formerly of India, has recently followed up his extensive series of papers upon the fossil fauna of Hindustan by a valuable catalogue of the Fossil Mammalia of the British Museum of Natural History. The portion of the catalogue issued comprises four volumes of the usual size of the British Museum series, with rather more than one thousand pages and one hundred and thirty-four illustrations. Part I. contains the Primates, Chiroptera, Insectivora, Carnivora, and Rodentia. Part II. the Ungulata Artiodactyla. Part III. the Ungulata Perissodactyla, Toxodontia, Condylarthra, and Amblypoda, while Part IV. is entirely occupied by the Proboscidea. The classification is based

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[1] An Elementary Course in Practical Zoology. By Buel P. Colton. Boston, D. C. Heath & Co., 1886.

[2] Catalogue of the Fossil Mammalia in the British Museum (Natural History). Part I. By Richard Lydekker, B.A.F.G.S., etc. London, 8vo. 1885. Printed by order of the Trustees Brit. Mus.